

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298236

PLS PASS TO LEGATT

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GEORGETOWN, MARTINIQUE
FROM BRIDGETOWN DEC 01:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PINS, BB

SUBJ: ALLEGED PLOT TO OVERTHROW GOB

REF: MARTINIQUE 0492 AND PREVIOUS

1. AT COCKTAIL PARTY NOVEMBER 29, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS HENRY DEB. FORDE TOOK DCM ASIDE TO DISCUSS AL-
LEGED COUP PLOT. HE STATED GOB EXPECTED SHORTLY TO BE
IN A POSITION TO SUPPLY EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION THAT WOULD
ENABLE USG TO PROSECUTE ROBERT VIRGA AND GINO CAPPADORO
FOR VIOLATIONS OF NEUTRALITY ACT.

2. IN ADDITION, FORDE PROVED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE WILLING
TO HOLD SYDNEY BURNETT ALLEYNE IN CUSTODY FOR AT LEAST
FOUR MORE WEEKS;

(B) TWO CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN THE PLOT;
ALLEYNE'S ALLEGED DAUGHTER, US CITIZEN ELLELEINE ALLEYNE,
IS NOT, IN FACT, HIS DAUGHTER; (C) WHEN ELLELEINE ALLEYNE

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APPLIED TO FRENCH AUTHORITIES FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT

ALLEYNE IN PRISON AND WAS REFUSED, SHE APPEALED TO GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER FRED WILLS FOR ASSISTANCE; (D) WELL-KNOWN BARBADIAN RADICAL "BOBBY" CLARKE HAS BEEN IN MARTINIQUE RECENTLY, APPARENTLY TRYING TO SECURE ALLEYNE'S RELEASE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AND DCM ON NOVEMBER 27, PREMIER PATRICK JOHN OF DOMINICA ALLEGED THAT, ENROUTE TO MARTINIQUE, ALLEYNE STOPPED OFF AT PORTSMOUTH, DOMINICA, AND CONFERRED WITH ROOSEVELT ("ROSIE") DOUGLAS, WHO IS PERHAPS EVEN MORE RADICAL THAN "BOBBY" CLARKE AND, IN ANY CASE, CLOSER TO THE CUBANS.

4. COMMENT: THIS AFFAIR IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE CURIOUS. THOUGH FORDE DID NOT SAY WHICH TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE INVOLVED, HIS REFERENCE TO WILLS SUGGESTS THAT ONE OF THEM IS THE GUYANESE. IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE GUYANESE AND SUCH LEFTISTS AS CLARKE AND DOUGLAS SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH ALLEYNE, WHO HAS STATED AS HIS REASON FOR UNDERTAKING THIS ADVENTURE HIS FEAR THAT THE ADAMS GOVERNMENT WILL TURN BARBADOS OVER TO THE CUBANS. NEVERTHELESS, ALLEYNE'S CHECKERED HISTORY CLEARLY INDICATES THAT HE IS A MAN OF FEW, IF ANY PRINCIPLES AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT HIS ANTI-CUBAN STANCE IS SIMPLY A POSE. END COMMENT. BRITTON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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